

- 6 -

Serial No. 10/038,074

Atty. Docket No. 13DV13864

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 24, 2004. Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 1 and 4-13 are allowable over the prior art of record and that claims 20 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response thereto, applicant proposes an Amendment After Final in which claim 20 has been cancelled, and claim 14 has been amended. If the proposed Amendment After Final is entered by the Examiner, then claims 1, 4-19 and 21-23 will be pending in the application.

Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested because it is believed to place the application in condition for allowance or at least in better form for appeal without presenting new issues requiring substantial further consideration. Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 14 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent 60-64737 (JP '737). The Examiner has rejected claims 15-19 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '737. These grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed in light of the present amendment.

Independent claim 14 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 20. Namely, claim 14 now recites a system for correcting twist in airfoil components that includes, among other elements, a lower fixture assembly for holding a first end of an airfoil component. The lower assembly includes a base plate engaged by a rotary drive unit, first and second support blocks mounted to the base plate, a slide block slidably mounted to the first support block, and a pneumatic cylinder unit mounted on the first support block. The pneumatic cylinder unit engages the slide block for moving the slide block relative to the second support block. The lower assembly also includes a first

- 7 -

Serial No. 10/038,074

Atty. Docket No. 13DV13864

jaw supported by the slide block and a second jaw supported by the second support block in juxtaposition with the first jaw. In light of the fact that the Examiner has indicated that claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is submitted that this amendment causes claim 14 to be allowable. Claims 15-19 and 21-23 depend from claim 14 and are thus also believed to be allowable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the objections and rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1, 4-19 and 21-23 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

5/18/04

Date

Patrick R. Scanlon

Patrick R. Scanlon
Reg. No. 34,500
207-791-1276